" Black Top Work "

* 1151 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any restriction that only twenty per cent of the amount allotted for the maintenance of roads can be taken for " Black Top Work "; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons for such restriction?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) The answer is in the negative."

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Shortage of rice in Vijayavada consignment.

* 1152 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the claims of the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies, Limited, Malabar, in regard to shortages of rice in Vijayavada consignment and pending consideration, referred to in answer to starred questions Nos. 1026 and 1027 given on 25th July 1953 have been finally settled?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir. The matter is still under consideration of the Government."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, this has been pending for more than two years before the Government on which a decision at the highest level is necessary. Now inasmuch as a settlement of the claims of these societies has become an urgent necessity and this being one of the claims made by them, will Government take an immediate decision in the matter? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir."

Villupuram-Gingee road

* 1153 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the starred question No. 691 answered on 12th May 1954 whether there is a proposal to take up the maintenance of the Villupuram-Gingee road by the Highways Department during 1955–56?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The answer is in the affirmative."

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, when do the Government propose completing this road, as this is an urgent matter? "

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" This has been sanctioned as a Part II Scheme in 1955–56. We have a long list of various roads to be taken over in each district and this road will be completed in the normal course."